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NOVEMBER TRIP TO ORINDA

The trip to Orinda on November 24 was attended by 22, including a visitor from Berne, Switzerland, Antonio Trippi. The day was clear and mild. As a result of the almost completely rainless November, both Cascade (Orinda) Lake and San Pablo Reservoir were quite low. The only birds on Cascade Lake were one American Merganser, one Pied-billed Grebe, and a few Ruddy Ducks. Considerably fewer land birds than usual were observed in the vicinity, including no Mockingbirds. A female Allen's or Rufous Hummingbird was the only unusual record here. The reservoir had a good supply of birds including an unusually large number of gulls, predominantly Glaucous-winged. Three Wilson's Snipes and two Spotted Sandpipers were seen here. After lunch we found the birding up Bear Creek Road rather good during the usually dull part of the day.

The following 63 species were recorded: Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall 2, Pintail, Shoveller, Am. Widgeon, Wood Duck 2, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Am. Merganser 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Am. Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe 3, Spotted Sandpiper 2, Glaucous-winged Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's or Rufous Hummingbird 1, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, (Red-breasted) Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Am. Crow, Plain Titmouse, Com. Bush-tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-tit, Bewick's Wren, Am. Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Audubon's Warbler, House Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, (Spotted) Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian.*

REPORT ON THE 52ND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

As the official delegate from the Golden Gate Audubon Society to the National Audubon Society's convention, held in New York City, November 10 to 13, 1956, I gained a good measure of further understanding of the continent-wide Audubon program of activities and of some of the problems facing those who seek to insure that *all* our resources are used wisely and made available for future generations to do likewise — i.e., who seek to conserve them. The highlights, only, of the many events of the convention can be mentioned here.

On Saturday, November 10, a major activity of the Society, the Audubon Junior Club program, was reviewed by Miss Dorothy Treat who administers it, and Miss Shirley Miller. In connection with this a striking "quiz contest" between two groups of Juniors (Boy Scouts) was conducted as a demonstration activity. The questions were all about the Golden Plover, and the progress of each team was dramatically shown by moving the birds along the southbound and northbound migration routes of the species on a large outline map of the Western Hemisphere. The "new look" in Audubon Junior Club materials is really outstanding. See them at the Pacific Coast Office in Berkeley (address on last page of each issue of *The Gull*)

Roger Tory Peterson then spoke on "Impressions of Wild Spain," with colored slides of his two recent field trips there (1952, 1956). A reception at Audubon House that evening featured a showing of original paintings by Don Eckelberry, who has illustrated the "Audubon Bird Guides" and a number of other recent books.

Sunday was devoted to field trips, for delegates only, to the Roosevelt Memorial Sanctuary at Oyster Bay, Long Island, and the Audubon Center at Greenwich, Connecticut. I chose the latter, and learned of the very considerable improvements and expansion of facilities for year-round instruction in nature and conservation since 1946, when I attended a summer session there. A persistently noisy Pileated Woodpecker was the highlight of our walk around the Nature Trail in the now nearly leafless woods in the afternoon, under the guidance of Mr. Charles Mohr, director of the Center.

On Monday, Mr. Wayne Short, director of the Audubon Screen Tour Program, gave a hard-hitting talk on the goals of this program and the impediments to achieving them. Facts and figures he cited indicate that we of the Golden Gate are above average in our success with the program; but "above average" sponsors are, of course, necessary if the tours are to be brought also to the manifold audiences across the continent, some of which will not be able to meet the entire cost of their "per person" share of the over-all expense. Major needs at present are: 1) an additional total of \$20,000 from all sources to put the tours on an over-all, break-even basis; 2) articles in newspapers and magazines about the program as a whole; and 3) better interdepartmental coordination in the National Audubon office to capitalize on the lecturers' other activities.

Mr. J. D'Arcy Northwood, curator of The Mills Grove Audubon Shrine in Pennsylvania, near Valley Forge, presented a fine series of color slides on this former home of John James Audubon. Mr. John A. Livingston, young and energetic executive director of the Audubon Society of Canada, told of the progress of that organization — particularly in the field of radio publicity. Emblem of the Canadian Society is the Whooping Crane.

The closing item of the public meeting was a presentation of the "Community Values of Audubon Centers" by Mr. Charles Mohr and Mrs. O. M. Stultz, directors of the centers at Greenwich, Connecticut, and El Monte, California, respectively. These centers are decidedly different in character, yet each has great value to the nearby metropolitan communities. The Audubon Center of Southern California has a new headquarters at the edge of its leased portion of the Whittier Narrows Flood Control Basin; the address is 1000 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte. I recommend that you visit it when in southern California.

At the Annual Meeting of Members of the National Audubon Society, Tuesday afternoon, officers of the Board were elected, Dr. Paul B. Sears, chairman of Yale University's Conservation program, being chosen as president. There was opportunity, taken by several of those present, to question the board members on any topic. Although the retiring president, Mr. Ludlow Griscom, was too ill to be present, he was awarded the Audubon Medal at the gala banquet held at the Roosevelt Hotel that evening. It was graciously accepted for Mr. Griscom by his son. The banquet crowd of over 600 was treated to the most spectacular African wildlife film yet — "Adventure in Africa" by Murl Deusing — and the convention was over.

I appreciate very much the opportunity of representing the Golden Gate Audubon Society at these meetings, the only ones at which Audubon representatives of all levels, from all over the United States and Canada, come together.

— HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Mills College, Oakland 13.*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Mr. Charles M. Holmes, Mrs. M. W. Joost, and Mr. Roy N. MacMullen; from Oakland, Mrs. Paul P. Hodon, Miss Ninna Ludeke, Miss Margaret G. MacDonald, and Mrs. Lorna S. Creveling; from San Francisco, Miss Joan Healy. The membership count has dropped to 889.

— JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman.*

FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING AND ANNIVERSARY BANQUET JANUARY 10TH.

The 472nd regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 10, 1957, in the South Porch Room of the Hotel Claremont, Berkeley (The "E" train leaves San Francisco terminal at 5:13 p.m. and arrives at the hotel at 5:46). This will be the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Society. Reports will be given and election of officers

In the absence of Mr. Bill Goodall, an address he had prepared was read by Mr. Carl Buchheister, who also had some comments on the same general topic, "Audubon Camps in Relation to Local Societies." A suggestion emanating from this seems very opportune—that organizations other than Audubon Societies can be better encouraged to send campers on scholarships if each local society has a permanent "Camp Committee" promoting such the year around.

Mr. Charles Brookfield and Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., spoke on the Audubon Wildlife Tours, emphasizing their effect upon conservation attitudes in the communities in or near which they are operated as well as upon those who participate in them

Mr. Conrad Wirth, director of the National Park Service, talked on the goals and progress of "Mission 66" (expansion plans of the Park Service) as it relates to conservation, especially to the wild areas of the present and future parks.

In the afternoon on Monday, two panel discussions were held on issues of great current importance to Americans: 1) "Pollution Control in Relation to Wildlife" and 2) "Pesticides in Relation to Wildlife." In the first, the greatest attention was given to oil pollution of harbor and ocean waters. The control of pollution in and near harbors is being greatly aided by helicopter patrols, it was pointed out, but pollution on the high seas (whence oil travels by action of currents to distant shores) is an international problem not in the least helped by the disturbing fact that the United States is one of several nations which has failed to ratify the International Convention to control such pollution. The general opinion of those on the second panel may best be summed up as "Many pesticides are amazingly dangerous to man, beast, and plants: we should therefore *know* what their effects on all forms of wildlife are before using them, and control their sale and use accordingly."

Also on the afternoon program was a "Progress Report on the Corkscrew Sanctuary," in which Sandy Sprunt showed pictures of the building of the headquarters and the more than 4000 feet of boardwalk which will enable visitors to penetrate some parts of this virgin cypress swamp dry-shod.

On Monday evening a tri-partite program held in the American Museum included a film on "Birds in Britain," presented by James Fisher, a panel discussion of "Federal Hunting Regulations in Relation to Migratory Laws," with John H. Baker and Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson participating, and a new Screen Tour film, "The Land the Glaciers Forgot," by Rev. Howard Orians.

Tuesday morning a panel discussion on "What Next for the Whooping Crane?" disclosed that two opposing suggestions are being earnestly put forth in attempts to save the species from extinction. Those who feel that some attempt should be made to raise them in captivity, or by putting Whooper eggs under wild Sandhill Cranes, include representatives of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Others, including Robert P. Allen of the National Audubon staff, feel that there is more likelihood of a larger number of young Whoopers being raised each year if the adult Whooping Cranes are permitted unrestricted possession of their own eggs and young. All were agreed that the most pressing problem is to maintain adequate wintering habitat.

for 1957 will be held. President, Mrs. George C. Browne, will preside. Following the meeting the Fortieth Anniversary Banquet of our Society will be held in the Salem Room of the Hotel Claremont at 7:00 o'clock.

Your attendance will make this an event long to be remembered. On this occasion we are honoring a small group of men and women who founded the Audubon Association of the Pacific forty years ago, in January, 1917. (The Golden Gate Audubon Society is an outgrowth of this Association). Invitations have been sent to: Mr. C. B. Lastreto, Mrs. E. D. Woodruff, Mrs. Morton R. Gibbons, Mr. Carl R. Smith, Miss Eva Griffin, Dr. Tracy I. Storer, Dr. Harold C. Bryant, and Mrs. A. S. Kibbe. We sincerely hope that these forty-year members will all be able to be with us, that we may meet them and express to them our appreciation for their accomplishment in founding an organization which has existed so long, served the public and the cause of conservation so well, and grown so large in influence and number.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. George Miksch Sutton, professor of zoology at the University of Oklahoma, world renowned ornithologist, artist, writer, and explorer. He will talk to us about his many fascinating experiences in the Arctic, his subject being "Bird Hunting with the Eskimos." This will be the first time that Dr. Sutton has spoken in the San Francisco Bay Area, and we are most privileged that he will come to us.

As promised, the original production, "Beating the Birds to the Bush," will be presented by the Audubon Players. This you cannot afford to miss!

For the banquet, sponsor's tables for 8 may be reserved. Complete cost per person is \$4.00 (envelope enclosed for your convenience). Please make checks payable to, and send to, GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, c/o Mrs. Hugo F. Holm, 2453 Cordova St., Oakland 2. Individual reservations and reservations for smaller groups will be welcome.

We wish to express our appreciation to the following, who are sponsoring this important celebration and serving on the Fortieth Anniversary Committee:

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bechtel
Mrs. George C. Browne
Dr. and Mrs. Harold C. Bryant
Mrs. William Cavalier
Miss Helen Catlin
Miss Pearl Chase
Dr. and Mrs. Robert K. Cutter
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Connick
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Mr. Aubrey Drury
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Mrs. Roberta J. Long
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Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Myer
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Dr. and Mrs. Bean M. Palmer
Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Scott
Dr. and Mrs. Budd J. Smith
Mrs. Albert B. Stephens

— LAUREL REYNOLDS, *Program Chairman.*

FIELD TRIPS FOR JANUARY

On Sunday, January 13, to the LOS BANOS STATE GAME REFUGE and the relatively new MERCED NATIONAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA. These are both excellent waterfowl concentration areas, the latter being the chief resort of the main population of Ross' Geese at this season. Sandhill Cranes, Whistling Swans, various geese and ducks, gallinules, rails, and Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks are on the agenda, or at least likely. Meet at Tiny's Coffee Shop in Los Banos at 9:30 a.m., ready to depart in caravan *no later than 9:40* for the State Refuge. Los Banos is 110 miles from Oakland via U.S. Route 50 through Tracy and State Route 33 thence southward, or it may be reached via U.S. Route 101 south from San Jose to Gilroy and State Route 152 thence eastward. Allow 3 hours driving time from San Francisco or Oakland. The Merced Area will be visited after lunch, as it is more or less on the way home, via a round-about route. It is located at the west end of Athlone and Sandy Mush Road, which crosses the Merced — Dos Palos Road 11 miles south of Merced (28 miles from Los Banos). Leader, Howard L. Cogswell (NE 6-1573). If those who can take passengers on a share-expense basis, and persons desiring such transportation, will both call the leader or the field trips chairman by Friday, Jan. 11, they will be put in touch with each other.

The area to be visited on this trip may be quite cold at this season, so come prepared with suitable clothing, plenty of lunch, hot drink, etc. Bring binoculars, telescopes, and interested friends. For those who may wish to stay overnight in Los Banos, the California State Automobile Association recommends the Canal Farm Inn and Motel one mile E. of town, on both routes 33 and 152.

On Saturday, January 26, to BERKELEY AQUATIC PARK, and possibly adjacent Bay Shore. Many ducks, grebes, and gulls on which to try your identifying skill. Meet at the south end of the park near the model yacht basin at 9 a.m. There is no automobile entry to the park from the Eastshore Freeway. Instead, enter the park from the foot of Bancroft Way, turn left on the park drive and proceed to the south end. Bring binoculars, telescope, interested friends, and lunch if desired. Leader, Arthur Myer, TH 5-3080.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman*, LO 9-3185.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.00 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 2426 Bancroft Way
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